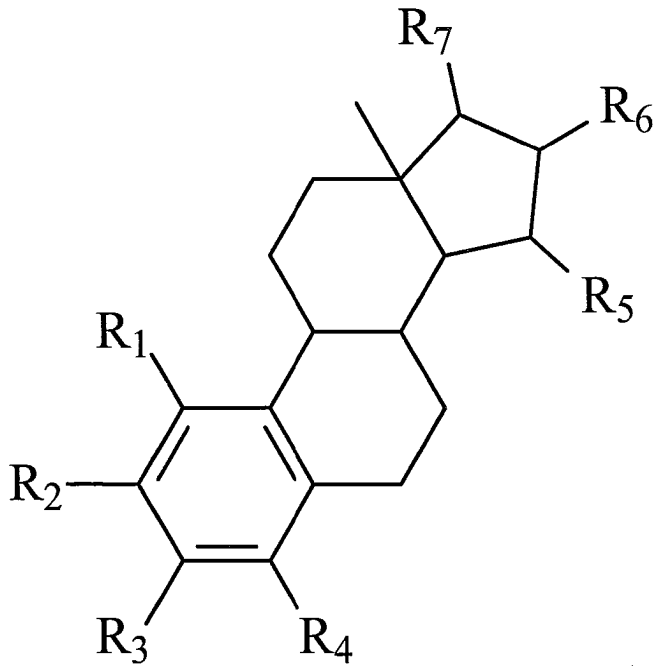
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method of treating or ~~prophylactically treating~~ reducing the risk of developing an immune mediated disorder in a mammal, said immune mediated disorder being selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis; rheumatoid arthritis; and osteoarthritis, and said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an estrogenic component selected from the group consisting of a substance represented by



in which formula R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 independently are a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group with 1-5 carbon atoms; each of R_5, R_6, R_7 is a hydroxyl group; no more than 3 of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 are hydrogen atoms;

precursors capable of liberating a substance according to the aforementioned formula, which precursors are derivatives of the estrogenic substances wherein the hydrogen atom of at least one of the hydroxyl groups has been substituted by an acyl radical of a hydrocarbon carboxylic, sulfonic acid or sulfamic acid of 1-25 carbon atoms; tetrahydrofuranyl; tetrahydropyranal; or a straight or branched chain glycosydic residue containing 1-20 glycosidic units per residue; and

mixtures of one or more of the aforementioned substances and/or precursors.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein R_3 represents a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein at least 3 of the groups R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 represent hydrogen atoms.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the estrogenic component exhibits an 8β, 9α, 13β, 14α configuration of the steroid-skeleton.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the method comprises the uninterrupted administration of the estrogenic component during a period of at least 5 days.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the method comprises oral or subcutaneous administration of the estrogenic component.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 23, wherein the method comprises oral administration.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the estrogenic component is administered in an amount of at least 1 μg per kg of bodyweight per day.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the immune mediated disorder is a T-lymphocyte mediated disorder and/or a chronic inflammatory disease.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 26, wherein the immune mediated disorder is a Th1 mediated disorder.

Claim 28-33 (Cancelled).

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein estrogenic component is administered orally.

Claim 35 (New): The method according to claim 18, wherein the method is for treating the immune mediated disorder in the mammal.